Innovation in Human Services through Collaboration

Family Services has a well-earned reputation for providing high quality programs and services that help families resolve crises, protect victims of family violence, and prepare preschool children to be ready to succeed in school. And, our new strategic vision is guiding Family Services to do even more toward building a stronger Forsyth County.

We believe it is our mission to reach beyond the 8,700 individual families and children we serve each year to find ways for improving the lives of all families and children in our community. As a result, we have established two major goals that are essential for the future well-being of our community.

1. To make quality early childhood development programs available to all children in Forsyth County.
2. To ensure that all children and families are free from the threat of family violence.

To achieve these goals we have enlisted an unparalleled network of action-minded leaders who share our aspirations and our commitment to achieve community-wide change. These partnerships are generating innovative projects designed to stimulate public engagement and transform community systems.

We couldn’t be more pleased about the energy that has developed around these goals, and the progress we are already making.

As a catalyst, Family Services brought together leaders in the domestic violence and child abuse fields to launch a community-wide initiative to eliminate family violence. As a first step they will engage and energize business, faith-based, health, legal, arts, media, and higher education groups that will join forces to address family violence in their organizations and/or across the community.

As a convener, Family Services formed the Universal Pre-K Steering Committee consisting of leaders in the early childhood development field who are developing a plan for making quality pre-K programs available to all children in Forsyth County. These experts have defined what is needed to provide and fund a quality pre-K system, and they are preparing to launch a multi-year campaign to achieve it.

As a collaborator, Family Services will launch STRONG@HOME, in which Goodwill of Northwest North Carolina, Habitat for Humanity of Forsyth County, Imprints Cares, Financial Pathways of the Piedmont, and Family Services will make their comprehensive services readily available to low income families with young children.

Community change is dependent upon community engagement. We are grateful for these and the many other partners Family Services is working with to create a sustainable community and a better future for all of us.

— Bob Feikema, President and CEO

School Readiness Project

Support from the Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust Great Expectations initiative is enabling Family Services to train and coach Head Start teachers to improve classroom management methods and reduce problematic behaviors that can develop into mental health issues among 4-year-olds. Seven classrooms are participating in the Forsyth County School Readiness Project (FCSRIP), a replication of a federally-funded randomized control-trial intervention that achieved significant self-regulation success among children in Chicago schools.

Ten Years of Safe on Seven

Forsyth County District Attorney Jim O’Neill recognized the critical work of Safe on Seven, which was launched in 2005 to protect, support and advocate for victims of domestic violence. A model for many programs across the state, Safe On Seven is a shining example of how different organizations can unite for a common purpose. Safe on Seven has been a lifeline for 16,000 victims who have benefited from essential support in navigating the court and social service systems in search of safety and freedom from the threat of violence.
The Community comes together to Ring Out Child Abuse

50 years of Head Start success commemorated with tree planting

Family Violence Prevention Initiative

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that nearly one-third of US women will experience domestic violence in their lifetime, and one in seven men. More than 3 million children witness domestic violence in their homes every year. Family violence occurs across all racial/ethnic groups and classes and results in both immediate and lifelong physical and emotional health consequences.

In an effort to achieve community-wide change around family violence, Family Services has assembled a team of experts to develop a Family Violence Prevention (FVP) plan of action that will be implemented across a wide range of community organizations. The Arts Council of Winston-Salem and Forsyth County, Winston-Salem State University, Salem College, the Wake Forest Innovation Quarter, and the Department of Public Health have pledged their participation, beginning September 2016.

Working together, business, faith-based, health, legal, arts, media, and higher education groups can eliminate family violence and create a safe and secure community for all.

Agencies collaborate to help families with young children thrive

Five leading community agencies are working together to establish an integrated system of services to improve the lives of families with young children. STRONGHOME is a collaboration of Family Services with Goodwill, Financial Pathways, Imprints Cares, and Habitat for Humanity. The project aims to help low income parents and their children thrive by providing evidence-based programs designed to overcome the barriers to success.

Poverty falls especially hard on families with young children. Parents often lack sufficient education, marketable job skills, and affordable housing. Poverty produces unmet needs and can lead to behavioral health problems. Parents are hard-pressed to find the time and energy to parent effectively. And when resources are limited at home and in the neighborhood, children too often are not ready to succeed when they enter school.

Beginning in the fall of 2016, 150 families will become members of STRONGHOME. In addition to using the services of the partner agencies, family members will draw upon their own talents and skills to help achieve their goals and assist others in the project. Family Services is breaking new ground. A collaborative project of this scope is unprecedented in Forsyth County. It has the potential to transform how families utilize human services to improve their lives and their neighborhoods.

Early Head Start and Head Start are long-term strategies for addressing the persistent and growing problem of poverty in Forsyth County.

34% of children under 5 live in a household below poverty level.

83% The increase of people living in poverty in our community since 2000.

28,852 children ages 0 and under live in Forsyth County.

35% of Families living below poverty level.

The first Early Head Start comes to Forsyth County

An award of $2.2 million in federal funding enabled Family Services to launch the county’s first Early Head Start program, which has enrolled 120 children, ages birth through 36 months. EHS connects each child’s family to nutritional education, child and family advocacy, and numerous social services and health resources. The first five years of life are a time of rapid brain development, and the architectural of the brain is largely developed during this time. Establishing the foundation for success later in life is a time of rapid brain development, and the architecture of the brain is largely developed during these years, establishing the foundation for success later in life. As Head Start, which Family Services has operated for more than 50 years, Early Head Start creates a network of support for parents and the children they serve.

We are pleased to announce that our Adoption Program has received a national accreditation from the Council on Accreditation. This highest level of accreditation recognizes the quality of the professional services delivered in the area of international adoptions in our work with NC families.
Your support in motion

We are delighted to share this brief impact report that highlights how your gifts are improving the lives of children and families. Your support of Family Services sustains a network of services where they are needed most and helps address systemic issues that inhibit the vitality of Forsyth County. Thank you for being a part of the community of solutions that is building a better future for all of us.

SAVE THE DATE: Walk a Mile for Children and Families | October 22, 2016

SAVE THE DATE
Robert Putnam returns to Winston-Salem
November 1, 2016

Harvard professor and social scientist Robert D. Putnam ignited our city with his groundbreaking study on the importance of social capital or “community connectedness” more than 15 years ago. This fall, Family Services will host his return to Winston-Salem as he presents a startling examination of the growing inequality gap and its impact on the future of our country. Please save the date for this singular opportunity when Dr. Putnam presents Our Kids: The American Dream in Crisis.

Black & Bling doubles gift to end Domestic Violence

Susan K. Browder (center) and Stephanie Williams Dean (left) co-host an annual event to raise awareness and support for ending domestic violence. They were overjoyed to learn that their efforts and the support of many friends and advocates could offer twice the impact through the matching gift challenge. The $3,000 they raised instantly became $6,000, thanks to the generosity of a local couple who care deeply about the well-being of children and families.

www.familyservicesforsyth.org

The new Family Services website elevates the visibility of our services and expands our ability to reach more children and families who can benefit from the agency’s resources and support.